

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002920

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.07.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
08.07.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B41F31/30, B41F13/44, B41F13/56, B41F13/06

Applicant
GOSS GRAPHIC SYSTEMS LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

DIAZ-MAROTO, V
Telephone No. +31 70 340-2976



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002920

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002920

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has:
 - paid additional fees.
 - paid additional fees under protest.
 - not paid additional fees.
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is:
 - complied with
 - not complied with for the following reasons:

see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
 - all parts.
 - the parts relating to claims Nos.

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	7, 10, 11, 18, 19, 27-46, 48-51
	No:	Claims	1-6, 8, 9, 12-17, 20-26, 47, 52-55
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-55
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-55
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item IV.

1 The separate inventions/groups of inventions are:

- 1) Claims 1-26, 47, 49-51: A printing unit for a web-offset press
- 2) Claims 27-46, 48-51: A folder for a web-offset printing press
- 3) Claims 52-55: A web offset printing press

The mere reading of independent claims 1, 27 and 52 shows that there are no features common to those claims at all. Furthermore, none of the technical features of any of those claims function in an equivalent, complementary or cooperative manner nor are they specially adapted to any technical feature of any other invention. Hence, there are no **corresponding** technical features shared by all the claims.

The only single general concept, common only to claims 1 and 27, is the modular construction of the printing unit and the folder. This concept is however neither new nor inventive, as printing units of modular construction are generally known (see for example documents D1 and D2 mentioned below). Therefore, no single general **inventive** concept can be formulated for all the independent claims and thus the groups of inventions mentioned above are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT).

Re Item V.

2 The following documents are referred to in this communication:

- D1 : EP 1 149 694 A (MIYAKOSHI PRINTING MACH) 31 October 2001
D2 : US 4 955 299 A (OHTA HIROTAKE) 11 September 1990 (1990-09-11)
D3: US-A-5 775 222 (TREUTHARDT THOMAS ET AL) 7 July 1998 (1998-07-07)
D4: US-A-4 861 326 (KUEHNER RUDOLF ET AL) 29 August 1989 (1989-08-29)
D5: US-A-6 082 259 (FLUECKIGER MARKUS ET AL) 4 July 2000 (2000-07-04)

INVENTION 1

- 3 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1 and 21 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document): A printing unit (1) for a web-offset press comprising plate and blanket cylinders (3,4) arranged in couples to print on both sides of a paper web (7) passing between them, and an inking system (5) associated with each print couple (3,4) operable to supply ink to the plate cylinder (4) thereof in an operative position, wherein the printing (1) unit comprises a primary module (1d) carrying the plate and blanket cylinders (3,4) and a pair of secondary modules (1e,1f) carrying the inking systems (5), at least one of the secondary modules being movable into a non-operative position in which the primary (1d) and each secondary module (1e,1f) are separated from each other (cf. claim 1).

Document D1 discloses also a method of reconfiguring such a printing unit including the step of moving at least one of the secondary modules into a non operative position in which the primary (1d) and each secondary module (1e,1f) are separated from each other (cf. claim 21).

- 4 Dependent claims 2-20, 22-26 and 47 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, see documents D1 and D2 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

In particular, the additional features of claims 7, 10 and 11, which are the only ones not explicitly disclosed in documents D1 and D2 are merely constructional details which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen.

INVENTION 2

- 5 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 27 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.
- 5.1 The document D3 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 27, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this

document) a folder for a web-offset printing press comprising an upper folder module (30) including at least one former (T) to impart a first longitudinal fold to a continuous web of printed matter passing over each former, a lower folder module (F1) to receive the folded web from the upper folder module and comprising means to cut the web into longitudinal sections and impart a second fold to each section substantially at right angles to the first longitudinal fold, wherein the lower folder module (F1) is discrete and separable from the upper folder module (30) and comprises means to receive the folded sections and deliver them for transportation out of the folder.

- 5.2 The subject-matter of claim 27 therefore differs from this known folder in that the means to receive the folded sections and deliver them for transportation out of the folder are part of a delivery module.
- 5.3 The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as making easier the modification of the folder to adapt it to different production needs.
- 5.4 The solution proposed in claim 27 of the present application cannot be considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because the feature of the means to receive the folded sections and deliver them being part of a delivery module is described in document D4 as providing the same advantages as in the present application. The skilled person would therefore regard it as a normal design option to include this feature in the folder described in document D4 in order to solve the problem posed.
- 6 The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claims 40 and 46, which therefore are also considered not inventive.
- 7 Dependent claims 27-39, 41-45, 48, 49 and 51 do not seem to contain any additional feature which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, involve an inventive step. All these features are known per se or form part of the prior art used for the corresponding purpose. Furthermore these features concern only constructional developments solving independent problems without producing any surprising effect which would result from their combination.

INVENTION &3

- 8 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 52 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D5 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a web-offset printing press comprising a print unit (10) and a folder (12) located adjacent to the print unit together defining a path for a web of paper (B2, B3, B4 in fig. 2) passing through the press (10), the print unit comprising means (16,17) for slitting the web to form a plurality of ribbons and means (21,22) for turning said ribbons so that each lie in a parallel plane one above the other as they travel towards and onto the folder (1-4,7), wherein the press is configured such that said means (21) for turning the ribbons is operable to turn each ribbon the same number of times between the print unit (10) and the folder (1-4,7).

- 9 Dependent claims 53-55 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, see the documents and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

GENERAL REMARKS

- 10 According to the requirements of Rule 11.13(m) PCT the same feature shall be denoted by the same reference sign throughout the application. This requirement is not met in view of the use of reference numbers 50-60 in figures 3-5 and 10-11 to refer to different elements.
- 11 Independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
- 12 The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).